



Neighbor to Neighbor

A center for women

We're a center for women and women with children in downtown Concordia, Kan. Our services and programs are all offered without charge to the women taking part, thanks to continuing support from the Sisters of St. Joseph of Concordia, our growing cadre of volunteers and generous donations from people who care about making our community a better place, today and into the future.

FALL/WINTER 2014

Holiday Boutique set for Nov. 15

Handcrafted holiday decorations?

Check.

Homemade cookies and candies and bread?

Check.

Original jewelry designs?

Check.

Hand-quilted, hand-sewn and handmade gifts of all kinds?

Check, check, check.

And that's just the start of the annual Neighbor to Neighbor Holiday Boutique, set for Saturday, Nov. 15, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

This year's special addition will be drawings for three great prizes:

- ▶▶ The wonderfully "renovated" dollhouse, *at right*.
- ▶▶ An adorable handmade crib-sized quilt.
- ▶▶ A \$50 gift certificate to El Puerto restaurant.

Tickets for the drawings are available at Neighbor to Neighbor, 103 E. 6th St., and at the Nazareth Motherhouse, 1300 Washington St. Or, to reserve tickets, call 785-262-4215.

All proceeds from the annual event support the programs, artists and craftswomen at Neighbor to Neighbor.



WIN THIS HOME!*

* Objects in newsletter are smaller than they appear.

It would be a cliché to call this dollhouse a labor of love.

But it is equally a cliché to use the word Jean Wilcox and Fran Shaw use to describe the end result of innumerable hours. It was, according to the two volunteers, a "challenge." And then they laugh and go back to the exacting business of clipping a thread here or straightening a chair there.

It was about a year ago that a well-intentioned donor gave Neighbor to Neighbor the hand-built dollhouse that had clearly seen its share of play. So last spring Jean and Fran decided to take it on as a "renovation" project.

Today the renovated house features a living room, master bedroom, nursery, upstairs study, kitchen and bath,

plus a sun porch, deck, flower boxes and a small pond in the side yard.

"I'm the how-to-do person," Jean says of their partnership, "and she's the what-to-do person."

The how-to-do included woodwork, wiring repairs and coming up with miniature solutions that would make the house as true-to-life as possible. The what-to-do meant ideas and flourishes that have put Fran's interior design education to use.

"It's going to be something that someone will want to put on display," Fran said.

And someone will get that opportunity Nov. 15, when

———— OVER ————



How You Can Help

Be a good neighbor

Special Needs:

It seems like no matter what time of years, we always need the basics!

- Paper towels & napkins
- Toilet paper
- Liquid hand soap
- Liquid laundry detergent
- Diapers

“Santa Party”

Each year Santa makes a special stop at Neighbor to Neighbor, and the experience for all the kids is priceless!

As a part of that exciting day, we make sure each child receives a gift from Santa — and any donations to help pay for those gifts would be very much appreciated.

In 2013, nearly two dozen children were on hand when the Jolly Old Elf dropped in — and each child and their parent received a special, individualized gift from Santa and his helpers.

Neighbor to Neighbor

103 E. Sixth St.
Concordia KS 66901

785/262-4215

neighbortoneighbor@
csjkansas.org

Hours

9 am-4 pm M,T,W & F
1 pm-6 pm Th

Center Staff

Sister Jean Befort
Sister Ramona Medina
Sister Pat McLennon

A MINISTRY OF THE
Sisters of St. Joseph
of Concordia, Kansas
... loving God and neighbor without distinction ...



ABOVE: Back in April, the interior of the little house looked like a construction zone as Jean Wilcox worked on it.

RIGHT: The nursery is now complete.

FAR RIGHT: Fran Shaw checks on the landscaping one morning in late October.



— CONTINUED —

the finished house is one of the prizes offered at this year’s Holiday Boutique.

Until then, the two women who have become friends as they’ve fussed over the furnishings have a few more odds and ends to finish up.

One small strip of wood molding still needs to be replaced, the electrical plugs needs to be tightened a bit, there’s still a little landscaping to complete...

“I will let it go,” Jean says, as she trims a tiny thread on a throw rug. “I promise.”



SPOTLIGHT ON OUR VOLUNTEERS

Alice Nondorf & Ann Barnett

Yep, there they are, in the kitchen at Neighbor to Neighbor.

For Alice Nondorf and Ann Barnett, it’s the busiest time as they get lunch ready for whoever is visiting the downtown center on this day.

But if they feel any pressure, all that shows is laughter and camaraderie, a friendship that has grown in the years they’ve been volunteering together at Neighbor to Neighbor.

They didn’t start out together.

Ann was already familiar with the Sisters of St. Joseph, from her years working as a housekeeper at the Nazareth Motherhouse. She has been helping out here from the very start, because, she says, it keeps her from being isolated.

“I’m not in my house, I’m not in my kitchen,” she says with a laugh. “Instead, I’m here helping Alice.”

That idea of just getting out of the house is important to Alice, too.

A mental health counselor recommended she check out Neighbor to Neighbor a few years ago.

“I had become a self-made hermit, and I needed



Alice Nondorf, left, and Ann Barnett serve lunch on a Friday in late October at Neighbor to Neighbor.

a reason to get up, get dressed and get out,” she explains.

But she wasn’t sure at first. She saw women learning various arts and crafts, and thought, “I’m not crafty at all.”

Then, however, “I was drawn to the kitchen.”

Over time that attraction has meant taking over responsibility for fixing lunch four days a week for as many as 32 guests.

They both take on other chores, too, but it’s always lunch that finds them together in the kitchen.

Alice and Ann knew each other before they joined forces at Neighbor to Neighbor; both Concordians, their paths had crossed at church and school.

“But our friendship has grown so much over the years,” Alice says. “She’s my right hand *and* my left hand!”